

Remarks

Claims 1 to 18 were pending in the application. Claim 18 has been amended. New claims 19 and 20 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1 to 20 are pending for reconsideration at this time.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the priority documents in the pending application.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for reviewing the references cited by Applicant.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 1 to 17. As no changes have been made to claims 1 to 17 by way of this Amendment & Reply, these claims are believed to remain in condition for allowance.

Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,069,829 to Komai ("Komai" hereafter). Applicant has amended claim 18 to more fully recite various features of the present invention. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0023] to [0027] of the as-filed specification. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 18, as amended, for at least the following reasons.

Komai discloses an integrated circuit with design-for-test (DFT) circuits (col. 1, lines 9-11). According to Komai, the integrated circuit employs internal clock multiplication for test efficiency and for test time reduction (col. 3, lines 45-46). In order to implement internal clock multiplication, Komai's integrated circuit includes a clock circuit for receiving an external clock signal, and address counter, a memory cell array and a logic circuit. Such a structure is different, however, from the dynamic random access memory recited in claim 18.

In particular, Komai fails to disclose or suggest any structure for preventing a column fail by controlling a pulse width and a pulse generating time of an address strobe signal. Claim 18 has been amended to more fully recite this feature as part of the claimed internal address generating means. As no such function or structure is disclosed by Komai, Komai cannot anticipate claim 18 as amended.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Komai is solicited.

New Claims 19-20

New claims 19 and 20 have been added to more fully recite features of the present invention. Support for claim 19 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0023]. Support for claim 20 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0030]. New claims 19 and 20 are dependent upon claim 18, and are believed to be allowable for at least the aforementioned reasons with respect to claim 18, in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. Allowance of claims 19 and 20 is solicited.

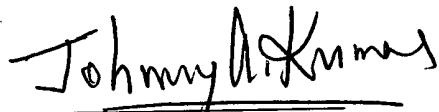
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative for Applicant for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/5/05

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